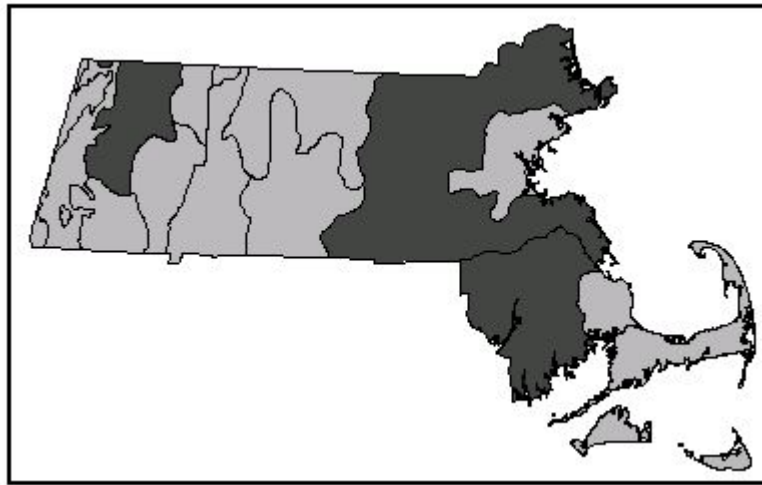


Community Name: ACIDIC GRAMINOID FEN
Community ELCODE: CP2B0B1000
SRANK: S3



Concept: Mixed graminoid/herbaceous acidic peatlands that experience some groundwater and /or surface water flow but no calcareous seepage. Shrubs occur in clumps but are not dominant throughout.

Environmental setting: Acidic graminoid fens are sedge-/sphagnum-dominated peatlands that are weakly minerotrophic [mineral-rich]. Acidic graminoid fens typically have some surface water inflow and some groundwater connectivity. Inlets and outlets are usually present, and standing water is present throughout much of the growing season. Peat mats are quaking and often unstable. More information is needed on peat characteristics and hydrology.

Vegetation Description: Acidic graminoid fens are differentiated from acidic shrub fens by their abundance of graminoid species and lack of extensive leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) and water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*). Beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) and slender woolly-fruited sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa* var. *americana*) are often dominant. Other good indicator species are white beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*), twig-sedge (*Cladium mariscoides*), and pondshore-rush (*Juncus pelocarpus*). Characteristic herbaceous species include arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*) and rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). Large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) can be abundant. There is patchy tree and shrub cover, including swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), sweet pepper-bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*). Coastal sites also have bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

Associations: One association has been described in Massachusetts: the *Clethra alnifolia*-*Carex utriculata*-*Carex lasiocarpa* var. *americana* acidic graminoid fen association [TYPE H; described in Kearsley, 1999c].

Habitat values for Associated Fauna: Acidic graminoid fens can function as vernal pool habitat in sections that have two to three months of ponding and lack fish; these sections provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

Associated rare plants:

ARETHUSA BULBOSA	ARETHUSA	T
CAREX LIMOSA	MUD-SEDGE	- WL
SCIRPUS LONGII	LONG'S BULRUSH	E
XYRIS MONTANA	NORTHERN YELLOW-EYED GRASS	- WL

Associated rare animals:

CISTOTHORUS PALUSTRIS	MARSH WREN	- WL
CLEMMYS GUTTATA	SPOTTED TURTLE	SC
DESMOCERUS PALLIATUS	ELDERBERRY LONG-HORNED BEETLE	SC

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGII	BLANDING'S TURTLE	T
PAPAPEMA APPASSIONATA	PITCHER PLANT BORER MOTH	SC
PAPAPEMA STENOCELI	CHAIN FERN BORER MOTH	SC
SYNAPTOMYS COOPERI	SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING	SC
VERTIGO PERRYI	OLIVE VERTIGO	SC
WILLIAMSONIA LINTNERI	RINGED BOGHAUNTER	E

**Examples with
Public Access:**

Grassy Pond, Acton. Hockomock Swamp WMA, Bridgewater.

Threats:

Nutrient enrichment from runoff from roads, lawns, septic systems, and agricultural fields. Other threats are alterations to the natural hydrology and trampling.

Management needs:

Cattails appear to proliferate in areas that experience road and/or lawn runoff. Efforts should be made to minimize runoff into these communities.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC:

In part Chamaedaphne calyculata/Carex lasiocarpa-Utricularia spp. Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation but no leatherleaf.

MA [old name]:

SNE acidic basin fen [CP3A2B1000].

ME:

Part of Acidic fen community.

VT:

Similar to Poor fen.

NH:

Similar to Coastal/southern acidic fen and to Boreal/transitional acidic sloping fen.

NY:

Includes Inland poor fen and Coastal plain poor fen.

CT:

Chamaedaphne calyculata/Carex utriculata var. rostrata community.

RI:

Acidic level fen.

Golet & Larson, 1974:

Other:

Author:

J. Kearsley

Date:

7/21/99